

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - FRENCH INCREASES IN AIRPORT CHARGES

1. PAN AM AND TWA HAVE COMPLAINED TO DEPT ABOUT RECENT INCREASES IN AIRPORT CHARGES IN FRANCE WHICH WILL COST THE TWO CARRIERS A TOTAL OF OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS ADDITIONAL IN CALENDAR YEAR 1974 (650,000 DOLLARS PAN AM; 479,000 DOLLARS TWA). SEABOARD ALSO AFFECTED BUT WE HAVE NO ESTIMATE OF COSTS.

2. INCREASES REPORTED BY PAN AM/ TWA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

AT PARIS AIRPORTS:

A) GOF ANNOUNCED FEB 27, 1973, EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 1973, ADDITIONAL PASSENGER CHARGE FOR USE IN NOISE ABATEMENT PROGRAMS OF 1 FRANC TO ALL FRENCH DESTINATIONS (INCLUDING OVERSEAS) AND 3 FRANCS TO FOREIGN DESTINATIONS.

B) GOF ANNOUNCED MARCH 16, 1973, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1973,
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3.5 FRANC INCREASE IN VARIABLE ELEMENT IN LANDING FEE
(BASED ON NUMBER OF PASSENGERS DEPARTING).

SINCE PREVIOUS CHARGE UNDER (B) HAD BEEN 10 FRANCS,
ADDITION OF 3 UNDER (A) ABOVE AND 3.5 UNDER (B) RESULTS
IN 65 PERCENT INCREASE.

C) IN ADDITION, GOF ANNOUNCED MARCH 16, EFFECTIVE
APRIL 1, 10 PERCENT INCREASE IN FIXED ELEMENT OF LANDING
FEE AND A FURTHER 5 PERCENT INCREASE TO BE EFFECTIVE
JAN 1, 1974. THIS TOTALS 21 PERCENT INCREASE IN FIXED
ELEMENT OF LANDING FEE (BASED ON WEIGHT OF AIRCRAFT).

INCREASES AT NICE

ANNOUNCED MAR 16 APR 1 EFFECTIVENESS

A) 5 PERCENT INCREASE IN FIXED ELEMENT OF LANDING FEE
AND

B) FURTHER 10 PERCENT INCREASE IN FIXED ELEMENT OF
LANDING FEE TO BE EFFECTIVE JAN 1, 1974.

C) IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, 3.5 FRANC INCREASE IN VARIABLE
ELEMENT OF LANDING FEE EFFECTIVE APR 1, 1973.

GOF DID NOT INTRODUCE NEW CHARGE FOR NOISE ABATEMENT
AT NICE.

AT NEW CALEDONIA AND TAHITI

NO NEW CHARGES, BUT VARIABLE ELEMENT OF LANDING FEE
PREVIOUSLY PAID BY PASSENGERS NOW HAS BEEN MADE
PAYABLE BY CARRIERS. PAN AM ESTIMATES INCREASED
COST OF ABOUT 11,000 DOLLARS/ YEAR AT NEW CALEDONIA
AND 141,000 DOLLARS/ YEAR AT TAHITI ON THIS BASIS.

3. CARRIERS POINT OUT ALL THESE INCREASES ANNOUNCED
BY GOF WITH VERY LITTLE ADVANCE NOTICE TO CARRIERS AND
THIS NOT IN KEEPING WITH ICAO RECOMMENDATIONS ON
PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR CARRIERS TO CONSULT WITH
GOVERNMENTS PRIOR TO INITIATION OF SUCH INCREASES. IN
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THIS REGARD, WE UNDERSTAND IATA CARRIER DELEGATION MET

WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES MARCH 28 TO PROTEST THESE
INCREASES.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY' S VIEWS ON WHAT ACTION MIGHT
BE TAKEN WITH GOF AUTHORITIES TO PROTEST SIGNIFICANT COST
INCREASES AND LACK OF OPPORTUNITY FOR CARRIERS TO COMMENT
ON THEM BEFORE THEY PUT INTO EFFECT. IN THIS CONNECTION,
PAA NOTES RECENTLY AGREED IATA RATES FOR 1973 DID NOT
TAKE THESE INCREASES INTO ACCOUNT. RUSH

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